

A U S T R A L I A N
GARDEN
H I S T O R Y

JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY



The Search For New Plants

When Elisha and William Hackett sent out their catalogue for 1898 they advertised to the public a range of novelties and new arrivals that filled 220 pages (see cover illustration). Some of the most attractive offerings were illustrated by steel engravings; a rose, a persimmon, cyclamen, a strawberry and a fuchsia among them. Also on offer through Henry Sewell's rival nursery were a choice array of tropical plants; orchids, ferns, palms, pitcher plants, caladiums, begonias, cycads and the like; while both had to contend with the attractions of tree peonies, Japanese irises, bamboos, maples and exotic conifers exported in pots for 'secure safe transit' by the Yokohama Nursery Company. South Australian amateurs were also active importing plants and seeds from Europe, Asia and America; travelling widely and bringing back green treasures in Wardian cases and even sending their gardeners to collect plants in the remote Himalayas. The enthusiasm for plant collecting in the late nineteenth century was infectious and far reaching; broadening the scope of scientific knowledge and setting in train a popular new pastime—recreational gardening.

Since that time we have continued to enjoy the gardens and plants developed and introduced in those far off heady days. Styles of garden making have evolved since then and hybridising of new cultivars has changed the appearance of many of the plants brought into our gardens at that time. The gardens of Victorian times have been extensively studied, recorded and a few 'key' examples conserved for our education and pleasure. The plants too, have been carefully researched, identified and propagated. It would seem that gardeners may now enjoy the pleasures of a garden filled with rich associations; the floral links with distant cultures, sentiment, romance, Arcadian idealism and picture book perfection. How then to contemplate the unpalatable news that gardens must become smaller with urban renewal; that water use must be far more conservative and costly; that plants will need to be able to withstand increasing pollution? We can look back to the past; take on that nineteenth century enthusiasm for plant exploration and re-assess the enormous botanical wealth that was introduced by intrepid Victorians. Among the half-forgotten books, foxed engravings, dusty Daguerreotypes and overgrown gardens will be discovered the means of making these new gardens. The plants we are hunting for may not be those valued in the past but those waiting for us to rediscover and reassess their potential for garden making.

Trevor Nottle

Thank you to the following members of the AGHS (Vic Branch) who helped mail out the previous issue of the journal:

Margaret Brookes, Diana Ellerton, Francine Gilfedder, Sue Keon-Cohen, Janet Morrison, Alicia Murdoch, Diana Renou, Mary Richardson, Ashley Russell and Georgina Whitehead; and to Liz McDonald for editorial assistance with this issue of the journal.

Queensland & New England tour

This AGHS tour is planned to take place from Sunday 8 September to Tuesday 17 September 1991.

The tour includes Brisbane, Ipswich, Toowoomba and Northern New South Wales. Approval has already been obtained to visit such famous places as Jimbour near Dalby, Cressbrook at Toogoolawah and Franklyn Vale at Grandchester, three of the most historic properties in Southern Queensland.

A preliminary brochure will be available shortly from John Morris, 13 Simmons Street, Balmain, New South Wales, 2041. Telephone (02) 810 2565 or facsimile (02) 818 1206.

The Australian Garden History Society was formed in 1980 to bring together those with an interest in the various aspects of garden history—horticulture, landscape design, architecture and related subjects. Its prime concern is to promote interest and research into historic gardens as a major component of the National Estate. It aims to look at garden making in a wide historic, literary, artistic and scientific context.

The editorial content of articles, or the products and services advertised in this journal, do not necessarily imply their endorsement by the Australian Garden History Society.

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The AGHS wishes to thank the Urban Design Branch of the Melbourne City Council for use of their word processing facilities to publish this issue of the journal.

'NATURALNESS WITH ORDER'

The Bush Gardens of Betty Maloney and Jean Walker

In September 1964 Betty Maloney opened her garden to the public for one weekend as a fundraising exercise for the Rudolph Steiner school, Glenæon. Betty and her sister Jean Walker had hoped for 40 or so visitors, but in the space of two days over 800 people came to see the garden. Betty Maloney's garden was different—it was an Australian bush garden planted purely with Australian native plants and designed as an abstraction of the bush.

Maloney and Walker wrote two books about bush gardens and designed nine gardens while working as landscape consultants. Their work had then and has had ever since a profound influence on Australian garden design and has, to an extent, changed the nature of Australian gardens. It was not just their use of Australian plants; it was also the blending of cultural influences. Their approach was new and is still treated with caution.

Any observer of Australian garden design today is familiar with native or bush gardens which had their greatest popularity in the late 1960s and 1970s. It is interesting, then, to look at the attitudes and gardens of the 1940s and 1950s. These were the years in which many of Betty Maloney's and Jean Walker's ideas developed.

Various styles replaced the pre-war garden style. Generally there were more trees and shrubs as these were easier to grow and required less maintenance; annuals were now limited to herbaceous borders and to display beds in the front garden. Frequent articles and books were published giving advice on planning a new garden. First the lawns were to be marked out; a drying area and children's play area were included; and a carport or garage with a path running to the front or back door was required. The front garden was designed with particular care as this was the display garden, the place where the occupants could express their own and their home's character; back garden shrub beds delineated spaces, and a bush house was provided to cultivate more delicate species.

By the mid-1950s there were several new components to be found in many gardens: the barbecue area, the patio or terrace and, for the affluent, a swimming pool. Usually these features formed part of the private backyard. The Australian love for the great outdoors had manifested itself in these new 'outdoor rooms' which were an extension to indoor living areas. Crazy paving and concrete arranged in various patterns based on squares were popular for these outdoor rooms.

In discussing typical gardens several design styles must be mentioned. Edna Walling had published her first book, *Gardens in Australia: their Design and Care*, in 1943 and was designing gardens professionally. She popularised the rustic, wild and natural styles of garden design. Walling had spent her formative years in England and her designs reflected this. However, she particularly loved many Australian native species and used them extensively. Gordon Ford and Ellis Stones were also proponents of similar garden styles. Walling, Ford and Stones were all predominantly active in and around Melbourne.

The call for an Australian garden style was growing,



Jean Walker

Kate Low

though often in the form of criticising existing styles rather than proposing an alternative. The following extract from Ron Edwards' *The Australian Garden Book* (1950) is typical:

We continue to follow the lead of the overcrowded herbaceous border, the formal continental bed set out in straight or symmetrical lines, or the hideous Italian garden full of rigid statues and stiff vases with clipped hedges to match. Either that or we ape the Japanese architecture expert who tries to make a garden out of rock, concrete and straight lines, and a lot of tortured dwarf trees, plaster temples, and miniature pagans dotted around the landscape.

There was a strong and active interest in Australia and things Australian and this included the indigenous flora. Australian plants were regularly praised in newspapers and magazines for their beauty and hardiness. Planting of natives was recommended for problem areas, such as holiday homes, where maintenance was difficult. The Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) was formed in 1958 and this group of enthusiasts swapped information through meetings and newsletters. There was a growing call for conservation of our bushland.

Jean and Betty Brown were born during the 1920s in Colac in Victoria's Western District. In recollections of her earliest years Jean remembers her father's great love of gardens and of Australian natives. As a young child one of her tasks was to water 36 Red Gum seedlings in the front paddock which involved hauling her little bucket some distance from the nearest water supply. She grew to love these plants which took so much of her time, and her interest in plants and gardens was kindled.

Jean and Betty attended art school at Melbourne Technical College (now Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) and both taught art in Melbourne for a number of years. Jean married Ralph Walker in the early 1950s and they moved to Balgowlah on Sydney's northern peninsula. Later Betty married Reg Maloney and they moved to Manly and then to French's Forest, also on Sydney's northern peninsula. Both women remember the enormous impact that Hawkesbury sandstone and the related vegetation had upon them. The beauty and diversity of the Sydney bushland provided a stark contrast to the lushness of the Western District landscape and their interest in this new environment led them to learn more about the indigenous flora. Both women joined SGAP.

Stony Range Flora Reserve is a public reserve at Dee Why. Dedicated in 1956, the 3.3 hectares consisted of remnant vegetation which was weed infested. The persistent labour of volunteers, many of whom are SGAP members, turned the reserve into a spectacular and educational oasis in which the cultivated plants have been grown from seed or cuttings in the reserve's nursery. An issue of the SGAP quarterly journal, *Australian Plants*, was dedicated to Stony Range Flora Reserve and illustrated by Betty Maloney.

It was from SGAP and Stony Range that Betty and Jean gained much of their knowledge of native plants. Whilst Betty quickly learnt the botanical names of many plants as well as a great deal about their cultivation, Jean was content to learn how things grew and to appreciate their beauty. Knowledge gained at Stony Range stood them in good stead when they began designing gardens. Betty Maloney still works at Stony Range every Saturday afternoon.

When Betty first became curator of the SGAP seed bank, Alec Blombery, a botanist and expert on Australian plants, brought seeds to Betty's house. He saw some of her drawings and asked if she would be interested in illustrating the fern section of his book *Australian Native Plants*. Many books later, the association continues. The most ambitious project they have taken on together has been *Proteaceae of the Sydney Region*, a series of 86 botanical illustrations by Betty Maloney with descriptions by Alec Blombery. The collection of paintings was bought by Esso Australia and donated to the State Library of New South Wales as a bicentennial gift.

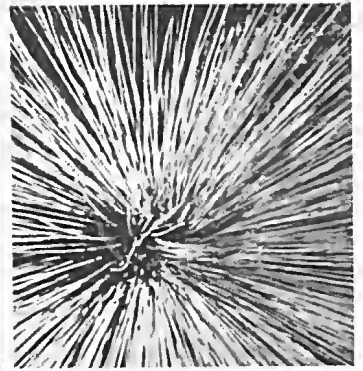
In 1964 Betty, Jean and a young scientist they had met at Stony Range, Don Sands, started a landscape design and consultancy service. They designed and built nine gardens and were involved in a great many more. Their use of purely native plants was not entirely new; gardens planted only with native species had been recorded as early as 1930. What was new was that Maloney and Walker designed their gardens as an abstraction of the Australian bush. It was difficult for many people to discard the typical elements of traditional gardens which were absent in Maloney's and Walker's gardens. Jean recalls that even Alec Blombery, a great proponent of Australian plants, at first believed a garden still needed camellias, azaleas and hydrangeas. And convincing people that a lawn was unnecessary was very difficult.

In the early 1960s few nurseries stocked native plants,

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**DESIGNING AUSTRALIAN
BUSH GARDENS**
BY BETTY MALONEY AND JEAN WALKER



6
**MORE ABOUT
BUSH GARDENS**
BY BETTY MALONEY AND JEAN WALKER



Books by Maloney and Walker

mulches or other supplies required by the sisters. They would go to Belrose tip, or to the property of a friend, Lorraine Mosley, to collect the supplies they needed for a garden. If they saw bushland being bulldozed they would salvage anything they could before it was destroyed. Many people thought that the business was just a 'hobby' and did not really expect to pay for the gardens that were built for them or for the consultations they received. It was quite fortunate when Betty and Jean were approached by the publisher Horwitz to write a handbook on the design of Australian bush gardens.

Their initial reaction was a flat refusal, especially when they were given a three months time limit. Gentle persuasion from series editor Barbara Mullins helped change their minds. They based this book on Betty and Reg Maloney's garden at French's Forest. Their art training proved useful as the sisters undertook the illustration, photography and layout for the entire book, as well as writing it, and all in the space of three months. *Designing Australian Bush Gardens* was released in July 1966 and became an instant bestseller. Their simple poetic style and extraordinary graphic approach captured the essence of bush gardens and brought their ideas to a broad range of people. The publication was to have a permanent influence on Australian garden design. A second book, *More About Bush Gardens*, followed in 1967, based on the transition of Jean and Ralph Walker's typical suburban garden into a bush garden.

The two books are in no way definitive, either in terms of design or of plant species. Rather they are full of bits and pieces which excite and interest readers, challenging them to find out more for themselves. The strong graphic approach makes the books immediately understandable and fascinating, whilst the text is so enthusiastic and practical as to encourage the most reluctant gardener.

Betty and Jean adopted Pablo Casals's phrase 'Naturalness with Order' to describe their approach. Their aim was to create natural gardens inspired by the bush. However, both women realised the inherent human need for order. As designers and artists they enjoyed the challenge of creating ordered beauty within a natural framework. Perhaps this description by Jean Walker expresses the concept a little more clearly:

The whole basis of our designs and the books was 'Naturalness with Order'. So let's start with the path. In the English garden the path was meant for using to get from one place to another. Our bushland paths were meant for contemplation and meditation. One could turn around and there was peace and privacy from every aspect. You became filled with humility for the simple plants, their modesty and the ease with which they grew, without any fuss from you. There was a step for you—for a child—or a grandmother—all made simply, with things from the bush.

In their conversation and books Betty and Jean refer to eastern influences. From the art of India, China and Japan they found inspiration in the love and attention the artist focused on a single piece of foliage, or a waterfall, or a rough boulder. The European ideals of grand vistas, vast geometric gardens or rolling parklands seemed to them incongruous in Australia.

Their art training gave them an eye for detail evident throughout their work. Gardens are viewed as whole compositions, not as a series of specimen plants. Plants of interesting textures are used as accents to highlight other plants, break up monotony, emphasise the beauty of a special boulder or make a reflection in a pool. Similarly, broad areas may be planted with one species dominant to create a particular sense of space which gives a 'sense of place' to their designs.

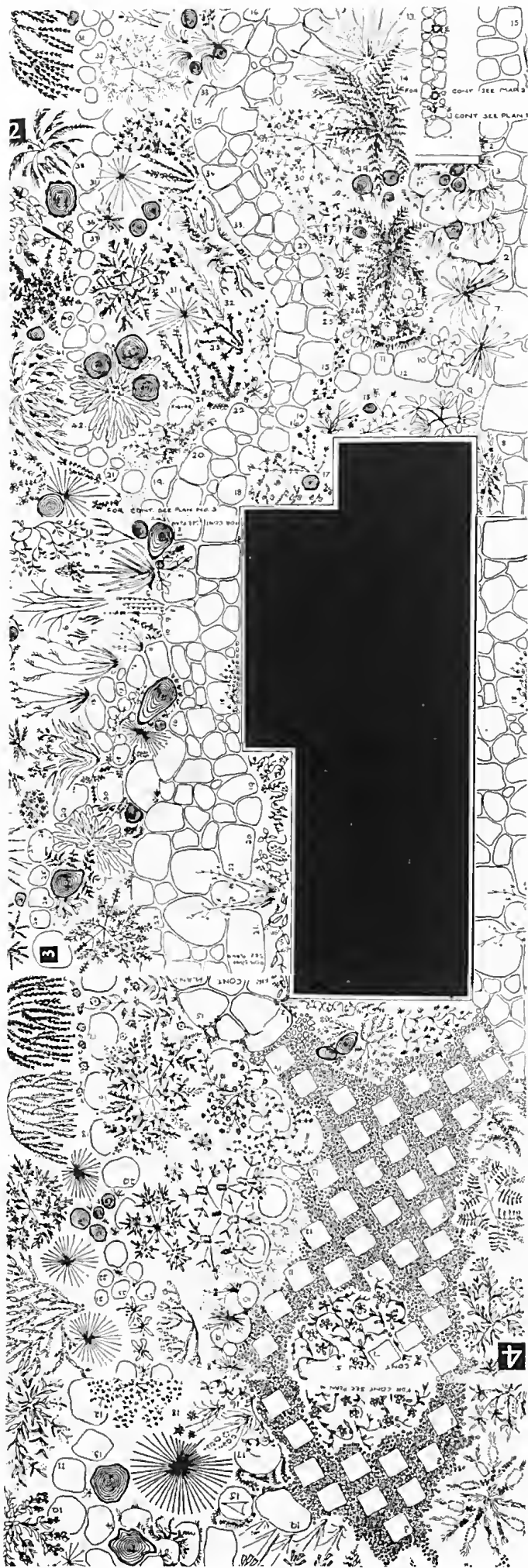
The texture and delicacy of plants in the Sydney bushland invite an intimate sense of scale. The beauty and interest that can be found in every single plant, in its foliage, flower or fruit, or in the shadow it casts, encourage the viewer to inspect the immediate. Certainly, when beautiful views are available they should be used, but they become more attractive when seen through a fringe of leaves, or through winding trunks. On Betty Maloney's small suburban block it is possible to become lost for hours in the detail; perhaps this is why the children in the street named it 'fairyland'.

Neither Betty nor Jean have lawns in their gardens. Their reasons are both practical and æsthetic. When the Maloneys first moved to Sydney they lived in a house with huge lawns; Reg spent most of his weekends mowing and by the time they moved to French's Forest he swore never to waste his time again. Lawns are difficult to weed, high in maintenance, invite other weeds into the garden and in summer are greedy users of water. Jean decided not to have a lawn as she preferred a garden of stone to one with boring flat grass. Both women see the vibrant green of exotic grasses as alien to the Australian landscape.

In any garden Maloney and Walker say that the designer should look for the dominant natural feature whether

Illustration of a sand dune ecosystem by Jean Walker from More About Bush Gardens, 1967, pp.100-101





it be a boulder, creek, view or existing trees. They aim to keep any materials used in a garden looking as natural as possible:

Wood in itself—a root, a tree, a stump—should not be burned away because it is dead. It is natural for wood to rot away, without any fuss from you. In doing so it will nurture soil and plant, and be far more attractive than a patch of black ash... Stone is best used discreetly. Avoid raw tortured cut stone. Don't be guilty of setting rocks in neat and tidy teeth-like rows... Before you start, go to the bush and look at stone. It is never in a straight line, it tips and tilts, yet you can find a path for your feet and a place in the sun, a place to stay and a place to sit. (*Designing Australian Bush Gardens*, pp 34, 36–40)

A path designed by Maloney and Walker will probably be fairly narrow with planting close on each side. Anyone walking along the path will be confronted with plants which arch over the path or spill onto it. And, as the plants are always carefully chosen, there will be scents from *Prostanthera* species, tickles from grass trees and brushes from ferns.

Betty Maloney's bush garden was there long before she or her husband had ever seen their block in French's Forest. The greatest design decision she made was simply to leave it as it was. The Maloneys were overwhelmed by the proliferation of wildflowers on their block. When they moved there only tank water was available and indigenous species could survive without additional watering. And as they had decided never to have another lawn, the existing bush provided an attractive and practical alternative.

When the Maloneys first bought their block, Betty marked all significant vegetation on the site. The architect was bidden to plan the house to minimise impact on the existing vegetation. The land was cleared by hand and an access path made through the adjoining property. The builder was cajoled and threatened into understanding that nothing was to be touched or removed without approval. Betty identified over 500 species, although the block was only 17 metres wide. However, the changes to microclimate and drainage patterns which occurred as the site was developed, and the subsequent development of neighbouring blocks, caused many specimens to die. Several scribbly gums (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*) were among the casualties.

In 1960 water mains were laid and Betty was able to start cultivation. She developed a fern garden and wherever there was sun she clumped rock orchids; towards the rear of the property several water-loving species were planted which allowed for absorption from the septic tank; the front garden retained much of its indigenous vegetation.

The garden has changed considerably in the last 25 years and today it is predominantly cultivated. When the sewer mains were connected in 1987 additional trees were lost. However, the garden has retained its spirit and character. The Maloneys see their garden as constantly changing which they believe is only natural as it is comprised of mainly organic material. Betty jokes that the

Part of the plan of the Maloney garden, 1964, published in Designing Australian Bush Gardens (1966)

present garden is probably the sixth or seventh that she has made on their block.

Few elements in the garden are permanent. Most paths and paved areas change as plants grow or die. If a particular plant becomes spectacular for a time, the path will detour to take the viewer past the best vantage point. The front entrance path is the only permanent path and it lies underneath the electrical wires creating the necessary swathe of low vegetation.

The front garden still contains a number of indigenous species, including *Angophora bakerii*, an old *Banksia serrata*, geebung and native grasses. To regenerate the seed stock in the soil this area would need to be burned, so Betty is content to plant replacements. For most of the year the texture of different foliage provides the main interest here, although it is a riot of colour in spring.

The rock orchid garden is a small area between the carport and Betty's studio. A bank slopes down to the house and over the years Betty has filled it with various native orchids. They have an interesting form during the year and make a spectacular display in spring. Everlasting daisies which grow up through the clumps of orchids are a further source of delight.

The fern garden has remained much the same for many years. Eighteen tree ferns (*Cyathea cooperi*) in two dense clumps provide a canopy as well as screening the neighbouring houses and forming an attractive forest of trunks. The lower storey has a number of bird's nest ferns (*Asplenium nidus*), king ferns (*Todea barbara*) and a groundcover of maidenhair fern (*Adiantum cethopicum*).

The back garden is very open since trees had to be removed after a storm. Betty has exploited this change to

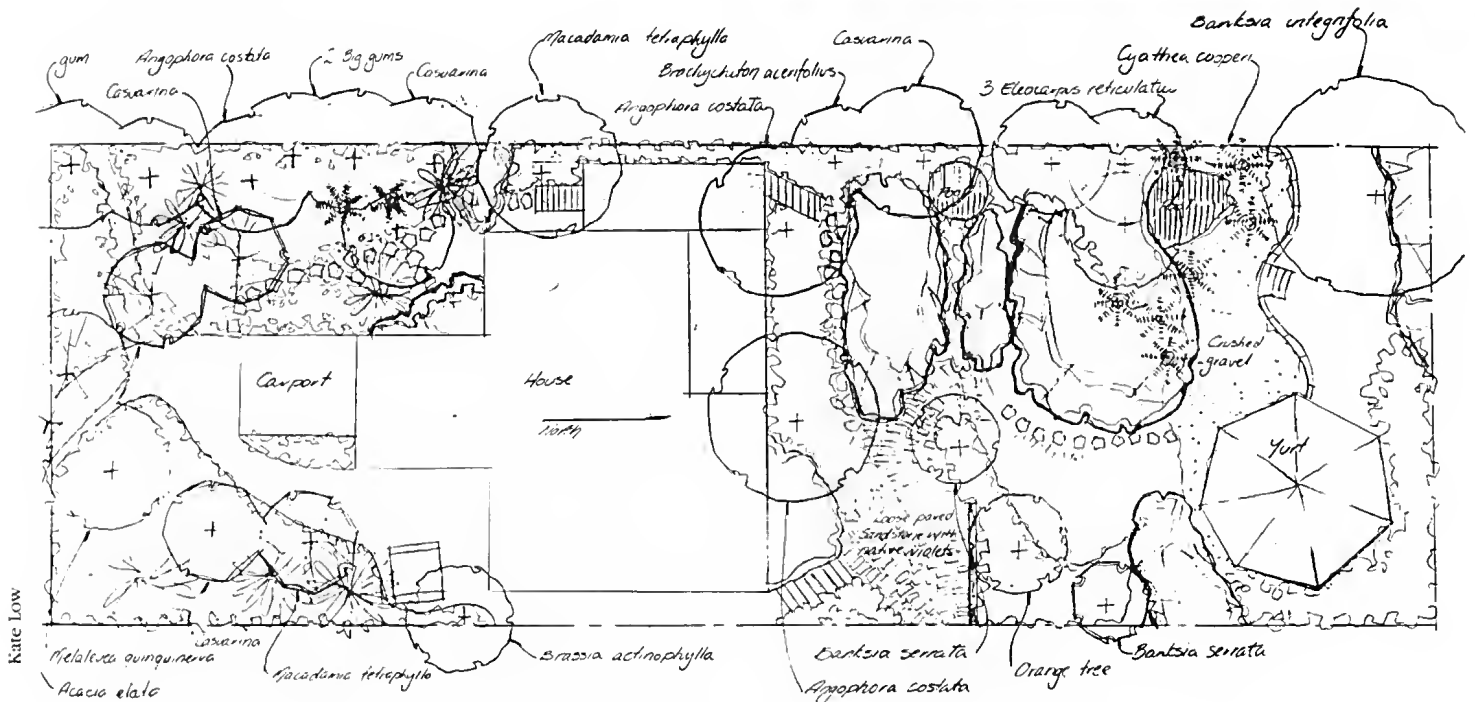
create an area of sun-loving plants. Various shrubs are grown and she is presently establishing swathes of everlasting daisies (*Helichrysum* spp). Several banksias and a macadamia have been planted which will eventually create a new canopy.



Australian Museum

Plan of the Walker garden, 1988

Jean Walker's front garden, 1971



Kate Low



View from Jean Walker's reading room into the front garden, 1971

The front 'nature strip' has a clay base spread with pebbles which are reapplied every couple of years. There is a heavy groundcover of either swathes of maidenhair fern or leaf litter throughout the garden which is visually pleasing, makes the garden quieter, reduces maintenance and recreates a bush ecosystem. The paving in the back garden is comprised of square concrete pavers set in a bed of river stones providing an interesting contrast of textures.

The overall structure of Betty Maloney's garden allows her to change it as she wishes and to indulge in collecting plants. It is low maintenance and the only time spent there is enjoyable time when Betty creates new areas or alters old ones, so the garden remains a joy rather than becoming a burden.

Jean and Ralph Walker's garden at Balgowlah provides an interesting contrast. This is a contrived bush garden created from a previously cultivated garden. When they first moved in the garden was, according to Jean, 'a horror'. The front garden consisted of an ugly wire fence, a straight concrete path and the rest was lawn planted with three gum trees, each with a circle of white painted

rocks surrounding the base. The back garden was worse. The steep site had been expensively terraced into three flat areas of lawn joined by concrete steps. The bottom terrace was some 2.5 metres high. Three angophoras had been chopped off at the base because they obstructed the harbour view; the tips of several sandstone boulders still poked their heads out of the lawn where it had not been possible to get the fill high enough to cover them completely; and a row of oleanders formed a hedge down the western edge of the block.

Jean did not start her garden until after the first book had been published. The first task was to demolish the old garden. She put an advertisement in the local paper inviting people to 'come and get it—yours for the taking—one wire fence, concrete fill, azaleas, lawn—all free'. The sandstone from the retaining walls was used as fill and the concrete steps were used for fill at the very bottom of the garden where a Yurt, which Ralph Walker uses as a studio, was later assembled. One day she ripped out the oleander hedge.

The Walkers' garden was now entirely bare earth and semi-exposed. Jean recalls that she was not the least bit

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

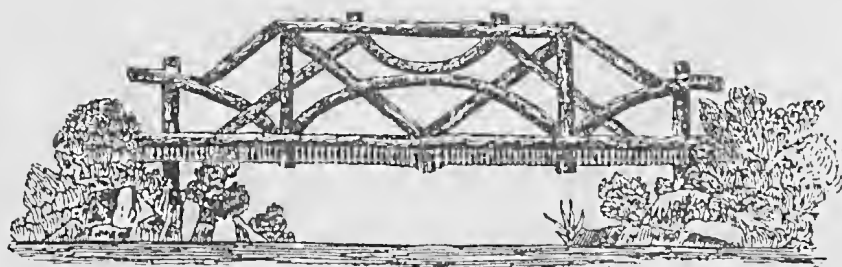
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Society was formed in 1980 with a view to bringing together all those with an interest in the various aspects of garden history — horticulture, landscape design, architecture, and related subjects.

It's primary concern is to promote interest in and research into historic gardens, as a major component of the National Estate. It is also concerned, through a study of garden history, with the promotion of proper standards of design and maintenance that will be relative to the needs of today, and with the conservation of valuable plants that are in danger of being lost to cultivation. It aims to look at garden making in its wide historic, literary, artistic and scientific context.

The benefits of membership include:

1. The Society's official journal six times a year.
2. An opportunity to participate on regular tours.
3. An opportunity to attend seminars, lectures, social functions, hands-on garden restoration days, a variety of garden visits, weekend conferences and other activities organised at a State level.
4. An opportunity to attend the Annual Conference, held in a different centre every year, combining visits to important public and private gardens with a variety of interesting speakers.
5. Knowing you are contributing to the conservation of important gardens as a component of the National Estate.



Australian Garden History Society

C/- Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Victoria 3141
 Telephone (03) 650 5043



Membership Application Form

For new members

To: The Membership Secretary, Australian Garden History Society,
 C/- Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Victoria 3141

I/We wish to become a member of the Australian Garden History Society and enclose my/our subscription as under

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Subscription Rates

		<i>please tick</i>
Ordinary Member or Institutional Subscription	\$ 32.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 year Ordinary Membership	\$ 90.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family Member (2 adults and 2 children)	\$ 37.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Cheque/Money Order enclosed

*Please make cheques out to the **Australian Garden History Society***

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Please list any particular interests or skills you have which may be of help to the AGHS

*The Society is affiliated with the Australia Council of National Trusts and is thereby able to benefit from the Trusts' tax deductible status. Donations are welcome and should be made payable to the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and forwarded to the AGHS

AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

ACTIVITY BOOKING FORMS

If you would like to participate in any of the AGHS activities detailed in the Calendar of Events in this Journal please complete one of the forms below for *each* activity you wish to attend and forward it to the appropriate Branch Secretary (listed under Branch Contacts in this Journal) or as directed in the Calendar.

- Note:**
1. Refunds will only be allowed where one weeks' notice is given and tickets (if issued) returned for resale. A cancellation fee may be charged in some instances. Please advise of cancellations as early as possible in case there is a waiting list.
 2. Please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope where appropriate.
 3. For ease of accounting we would prefer that membership payments are *not* included with activity payments.

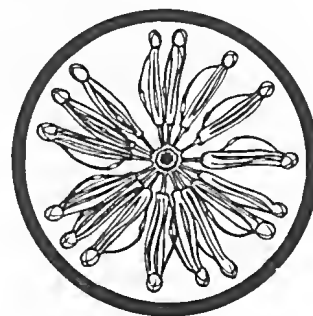
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concerned—she was quite confident that she could create a beautiful garden out of the rubble. She began to move the remaining fill to the edges of the garden and as it was removed more of the sandstone boulders were exposed. These were to provide the inspiration for the whole garden. Jean carefully exposed each massive boulder until it reached the next one down the slope. The effect is spectacular as each huge boulder rests impassively on the one below. In crevices between the rocks Jean planted ferns, soft bracken and native violets. The angophoras were allowed to grow and banksias and tree ferns were planted. The cut sandstone from the retaining walls was used to pave a terrace towards the top of the slope under an *Angophora costata*. Native violets grew between the cracks of the pavers.

The front garden was planted with a mass of seedling trees, shrubs and groundcovers. Within six months the jungle effect Jean had desired was already appearing. Her intention was to create a transition from street to house, a cultivated patch of bushland which would provide a pleasant and peaceful space to walk through.

Over 20 years later, Jean Walker's garden has changed little. The front garden is more open in character as a carport is now there. Jean is busy with her art and spends little or no time working on her garden. As it has kept its appearance her garden is proof of the claim that bush gardens are low maintenance. Jean Walker's garden is a stone garden as much as it is one of plants. The planting is simple and its sculptural effect striking. The manner in which she has combined the elements of wood, stone and water has created a restful, beautiful and uniquely Australian garden.

Kate Low



BOOK REVIEWS

Taken for Granted: The Bushland of Sydney and its Suburbs by Doug Benson and Jocelyn Howell (Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst, NSW in association with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, 140 pp, RRP \$35)

Lawn mowers, whipper-snippers and herbicide sprays are applied conscientiously to tidy up stragglers at bushland edges. Bit by bit the bush is pushed back and the kikuyu invades. Examples abound of bushland destroyed by a sequence of small, seemingly reasonable, individual actions—road widening, drain construction, tree lopping, firebreak clearing, edge slashing, tidying up of dumped rubbish—the 'tyranny of small decisions'.

This quotation succinctly sums up the pressure on Sydney's bushland and is typical of the clear 'no jargon' style of authors Doug Benson and Jocelyn Howell, both plant ecologists at Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens.

Their book which describes the impact of Sydney's development on the natural vegetation is long overdue. By drawing on archaeological, historical, social and scientific information they provide a broad information base against which the issues and concerns affecting suburban bushland, so often demonstrated in local communities and voiced in many forums, are examined.

Beautifully produced it is illustrated with a rich collection of paintings, maps, engravings and early photographs. Some fine recent photographs by Jaime Plasa capture both detail and the distinctive character of existing varied plant communities.

The early chapters describe Sydney's landscape, geology, soil, climate and major vegetation types. The description of the lifestyle of the Aboriginal people is especially interesting from the detail of 'the cork' water container to their account of the use of fire to modify plant growth.

After a general description of the European impact over 200 years Benson and Howell examine within a social and historical context just what happened to 'the bush' in 40 local government municipalities thus providing a valuable resource for those who wish to know more about their own districts or particular plant communities. Recognising the destruction that has occurred makes depressing reading at times; however if we are to save existing remnants we should acknowledge past mistakes and learn from books such as this to both value and protect remaining remnants.

The destruction of the natural vegetation for suburban development in the past demonstrates a lack of value placed on natural bushland areas and a lack of foresight and planning. Many bushland reserves now valued in older suburbs survived more by default than planning, often on land too steep, or otherwise unsuitable for development, or set aside for some other purpose.

In the final chapter 'Sydney Bushland: The Future' the authors make a plea for the retention of bushland remnants as 'suburban bushland' and their integration into the planning of new suburbs. This is particularly relevant for areas in western Sydney where new subdivision expansion is underway or being planned. This chapter deals with pressures and impacts, and looks at some possible solutions for the management of existing and future bushland reserves.

The book argues that the future of Sydney's bushland lies in understanding the relationship between the suburbs and the bush and that to protect and maintain it will require the 'actions of governments and vigilance of individuals'. This book demonstrates that if it is to survive Sydney's bushland can no longer be 'Taken for Granted'.

Norma Stuart

Medicine and Botany. An Australian Cadaster. Australian flora named after those whose lives served medicine and health by John Hemsley Pearn (Amphion Press, 1990, vii + 172 pp., RRP \$19.95)

It is not immediately obvious from the cover—which displays only the first two parts of this tripartite title—but this book contains an annotated list of botanically-minded doctors (of medicine) whose surnames have been bestowed upon Australian plants. Each individual so honoured is given a brief diagnosis (in the botanical sense of this word) consisting of their major contribution to medicine, exploration, scholarship and civic life; their 'countries of residence and civic and scientific contribution'; and, of course, the list of the plant(s) that bear their names (except for one fungus, all are flowering plants). Although the plant lists include all commemorative generic names, only one species name is ever recorded for each doctor. Birth and death dates are given for each commemoratee, and there is a liberal sprinkling of people and plant portraits. After 13 pages of acknowledgements (with about 200 names arranged in alphabetical order!) there is a comprehensive index to all scientific and vernacular plant names mentioned in the text.

By defining his medics as those with a 'primary medical qualification' or else 'a major life's contribution to the practice of medicine or the maintenance of health', Pearn is able to include Carl Linnaeus who gained his education at a medical school (and did eventually become Professor of Medicine), and Robert Brown who was a trained surgeon. There are some 300 other candidates, with surnames lying between Achilles and Zorn.

The whole exercise has an air of reserve and reverence seldom found today; who now, for example, talks of contributions to scholarship and civic life? This is an observation rather than a criticism, since the appeal of a book like this lies as much in the atmosphere it creates as in the information within it.

Of course, two questions immediately spring to mind. Firstly, 'why doctors?'. Why not an Australian Cadaster of lawyers or architects, or of accountants or politicians, or even of footballers or parking attendants? As Robert Johnson begins in his foreword: 'The histories of medicine and botany have long been intertwined'. Early physicians were among the first botanists and when the university system was developed, teaching about plants occurred at medical schools. Johnson later concludes: 'It is therefore not unusual that medical practitioners have figured prominently in catalogues of plant names'. So much for that. Incidentally, John Pearn almost promises a sequel on pharmacists, dentists, nurses and other health professionals.

The second obvious question is, 'Why bother?'. John Pearn clearly believes that to have one's name immortalized by the 'bloom of a flower' (as he puts it) is a fitting epitaph for a great man or woman. I am a little dubious about this honour (although it may be sour grapes). Although it is appealing to have a piece of vegetable matter carry your name well beyond your mortal existence, plant names are derived from a wide array of

sources and reflect little more than the intellectual prowess, or failings, of the botanist describing the plant. Perhaps that is a little too cynical (more fitting for a man of the new world perhaps). The point is, John Pearn *did* bother and he has done an excellent job. The production is good and the material well researched. However, it could have been polished up a little by the omission of the three (lengthy) category headings repeated under each name. Also, the value of the text as a resource document would have been greatly enhanced if *all* commemorative species names had been included. Presumably this would have expanded an already difficult task into one unlikely to ever see completion.

Another problem (or is it a benefit?) with a book like this is that it leaves the reader hungry for more. It is like an aperitif. I longed to find out more about how medicine and botany were intertwined in the lives of Cadwallader Colden, Pedanios Dioscorides or Teucer. Some of the figure captions include such tasty morsels, but for most entries the information reads along the lines of: 'First King of Troy, Healer; Troy (now in Asia Minor as part of Turkey); *Teucrium* spp'.

The book has had one lasting effect on me. I will forever rue having squandered the six chances I have had to date to name a plant after a friend or colleague. Perhaps I have undervalued the pleasure of commemorative naming. Still, my local GP is a bit of an orchid buff so it might be time I paid him a visit. By the way, the term 'cadaster' is defined in the preface (your *Oxford* or *Collins* will give you a slightly less romantic explanation).

Tim Entwistle

BULBS & BLOSSOMS

Tour of
gardens in the
Western District, Victoria
4-8 September 1991

The Australian Garden History Society will be rerunning its outstanding tour 'Bulbs and Blossoms'. This tour visits such outstanding historic gardens as Mawalok, Mount Boninyong, Banongill, Naringal, Wannawong, Turkeith and Dalvui, and the Botanic Gardens of Colac, Ballarat and Geelong.

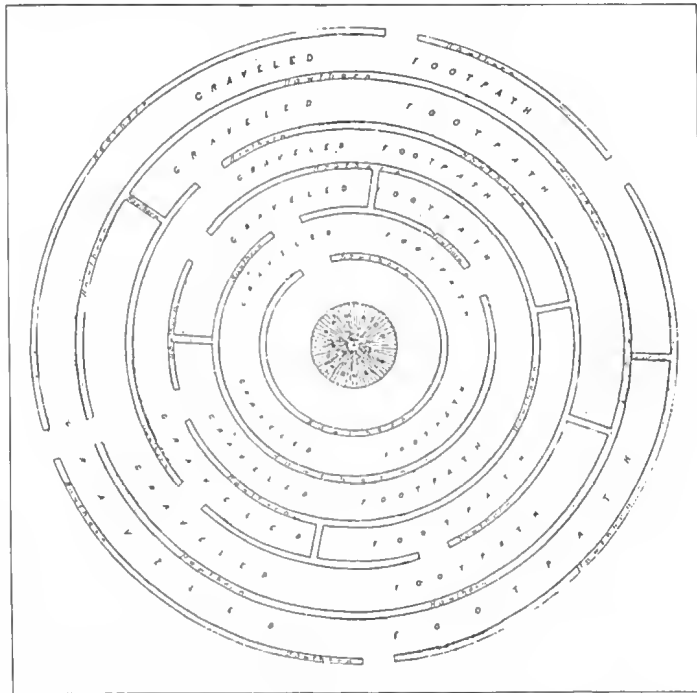
Tour cost will be \$575 all-inclusive from Melbourne (\$90 single supplement). Further details are available from: Margaret Brookes, Australian Garden History Society, C/- Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Victoria, 3141.

STATE NEWS

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

Restoration of the Belair Maze

Following the rediscovery of the Belair hedge maze several years ago the South Australian Branch of the Australian Garden History Society decided to embark upon a project to restore the maze. In 1987 a grant was made by the national executive of the Society and subsequently a National Estate grant was obtained allowing the work to begin.



Barry Long collection

The maze is situated in Belair Recreation Park which when founded in 1891 was known as National Park, the eighth such park in the world and second established in Australia. The maze was originally planted in 1886 as part of a park adjacent to the Belair Railway Station. The area continues to be dominated by plantings of sugar gums (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) and radiata pines (*Pinus radiata*). There are also Aleppo pines (*P. halepensis*) and other exotic species with the various single species plantations being divided into promenades. This style probably reflects the fact that it was the Woods and Forests Department which established the park. There was an ornamental lake and the maze was sited in a focal position. The railway from Adelaide through the Mt Lofty ranges had only recently been established and the park was intended as a cool summer picnic retreat for the citizens of Adelaide. A few years later this park was incorporated into the much larger National Park, the recreational area of the new park developed elsewhere and this area became a forgotten corner of the larger park thus ensuring the survival of the maze which is now important as the last surviving maze from the colonial era. It is one of only a handful of such nineteenth century mazes in the world.

The site of about 0.35 hectares (3/4 acre) was overgrown, with the six incomplete rings of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) being barely discernable in the undergrowth. The undergrowth and small trees were removed over a period of eighteen months through work

contributed by local service groups, schools, Society members and the Department of Community Welfare Young Offenders Scheme. A number of large trees, principally Aleppo pines and sugar gums, were removed in late 1989 by a contractor. The site is now clear with regrowth currently being dealt with by Society members. We had hoped to plant the gaps in the maze in late winter but unfortunately the seed collected from the maze area proved to be not viable. New seed from hawthorns which grow in abundance in other parts of this hills district was collected but again failed to germinate. As a consequence, we now hope that winter cuttings will prove successful. The surviving plants have been pruned and fertilized and are starting to show some signs of regeneration. The maze will be supported by a drip irrigation system as, although the species grows well in the area, it prefers moist creek lines and does not thrive as well on the knoll where the maze is sited. The maze will be officially opened on Sunday, 17 November 1991 at 11 00am as part of the park's centenary celebrations. The opening will be followed by a picnic in the park and a visit to the historic garden Glenalta at Stirling in the Adelaide Hills. As 1991 has been declared the Year of the Maze in England, the restoration of the Belair maze, modelled as it was on an English maze, will represent a symbolic link with the British component of our gardening heritage.

Barry Long

TASMANIAN BRANCH

Richmond Gardens

The village of Richmond in Southern Tasmania is a great favourite with many local, interstate and overseas visitors. It has managed to retain its charm through the years, has not been too commercialised, and the people who live there have protected its buildings and endeavoured to restore and use them whilst at the same time encouraging new constructions to blend in with the old without offending. European settlement commenced in 1824 and because of rich land around the area watered by the Coal River it became the granary for Tasmania, today given way to more intensive cropping and vineyards.

The AGHS Tasmanian Branch visited Richmond in early March on one of those warm still days so suited to walking in this small village and peering over fences at the delights beyond. The overriding impression at this time of year is the scent of late roses, lavender, geraniums and ripening fruit. We were privileged to see four gardens and also to see small private and secluded courtyards; small gems tucked away behind old walls and buildings, all cool green and inviting behind their old mellow brick walls covered generally with roses. But it is the fruit that always amazes me, the sheer variety, health and vigour of the trees and vines. In one garden the owner showed us many different varieties of plums, apples, peaches and grapes, as well as a flourishing vegetable area. She does not use sprays but prefers to let nature deal with the problem. Her fruit trees were breaking under the strain of the abundance of fruit. Where were the birds, not in that garden as the fruit remained

untouched. We had lunch next door, and every blackbird in Richmond was there snatching the moist mulch from round the precious crocus and cyclamen and other small bulbs driving the owner mad and making the usual mess. That's gardening for you and where would we be without their song in Spring!

Many members enjoyed afternoon tea at the corner tea-rooms, where tea is served in large china pots and everything about the business is generous. And we thank the people of Richmond for sharing their village and their gardens with us, and we urge them to keep up the good work.

Fairie Nielson

Award to Committee Member

One of our State Committee members, Pip Tatchell, has won the national *Home Beautiful* award for her garden near Avoca, in Tasmania's Fingal Valley. The garden is made around the ruins of the early cottage built in the



Hobart Mercury

late 1840s-50s. The original part was burnt down and the owners added on, hence the rambling ruins. It was originally a dairy farm and manufactured the then celebrated 'Storey's Cheese'. Hops were also grown and sent down to Hobart. The garden contains old fashioned roses and perennial cottage plants in the wonderful old cottage ruins.

Ann Cripps

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Committee Activities

Victorian members are probably unaware that their branch committee spends a lot of time considering issues concerning the effects of proposed developments on our

gardens, public space and landscapes. It seems that an ever increasing diligence is needed to keep abreast of propositions. Where we feel strongly about an issue, submissions are made to put our case to the various authorities. Two recent and most important issues are the Willsmere development and proposed management changes to the Royal Botanic Gardens.

The effect on the Yarra Bend Park and Boulevard by the Jennings development at Willsmere in Kew is causing great concern. The Jennings development includes a conference centre and hotel. The present plan is that the main entrance for the development will cause traffic to use the Boulevard. The preferred option by other interested parties is to situate the main entrance in Princess Street, Kew. We feel strongly that the Boulevard and park warrants special attention and care. They are used by many people for recreation, including walking, bike riding, bird watching and related activities. This area contains one of the last remaining areas of indigenous flora and fauna close to the city. It is therefore of great importance that commercial traffic, and heavy hotel and tourist traffic should not automatically pass through this fragile area. Our committee feels that the possibility of park and Boulevard closure at night to protect wildlife should be considered. We are presently supporting the Yarra Bend Park Trust with a submission to the Kew Council.

The second issue, an ongoing one, is of the management of the Royal Botanic Gardens. There has been misleading information in the media about proposed changes, with particular reference to the Kiosk redevelopment, the possibility of a liquor licence and admission charges for entrance to the gardens. It seems that no entrance fee has in fact been proposed; however, a letter to the Minister has been sent asking for clarification of the government's intention. A conservation study of the Royal Botanic Gardens has been in progress for some time and will be completed shortly. This will help with guidelines for future management and policy formation. Our members will be kept informed on the outcome of this study and possibly a further lecture, walk and talk event will be held by our Branch.

Such issues as these are time consuming and have no immediate or obvious result to the general members. However these issues are important to the Society and our efforts should be maintained to help protect endangered gardens, landscapes and parks.

Sue Keon-Cohen

Castlemaine Gardens

With its successful visit to the gardens of Castlemaine on 16-17 April 1991, the Victorian branch introduced a new development to the AGHS which may be of considerable interest to organisers of other AGHS branch activities, particularly those with enthusiastic members distant from the Society's metropolitan events.

Following support by the Victorian branch towards the idea of regional representatives to act as co-ordinators of country activities, a number of our rural stalwarts volunteered to initiate this new role.

A visit to the gardens of Castlemaine was the first activity to be organised by one of the Victorian regional repre-

sentatives and, I believe, all who contributed to, and participated in, the weekend would agree that the function provided an ideal opportunity to strengthen rural links. Activities such as this will go some way towards fostering a closer relationship between city and country members and importantly, the Society and private owners of historic gardens.

Kevin Walsh, a long-term AGHS member, garden historian and horticulturist, and resident Castlemaine Irish wag, organised a two day program of old favourites and new surprises starting with a delicious devonshire tea at 'Buda' on Saturday morning.

We saw so much of interest in the garden, guided by the Curator John Gowty, that we had only minimal time to view the Leviny collections within the house. John showed us the beautiful architectural renderings of Ernest Leviny for his other house and garden, Kaweka, also in Castlemaine; unfortunately now considerably altered and no longer sympathetic to the original plans.

A picnic lunch in the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens was followed by a potted history and tour of this vast and beautiful site—probably one of the largest provincial botanic gardens in the state and possibly one of the most complex to analyse as within its seventy acres are remnant areas of bushland of rare and endangered fauna and flora, intensive horticultural areas and garden bed displays, and public and recreational facilities such as a swimming pool, playground, caravan park and barbecues. Trees of striking autumnal colours are a feature indicating the climatic extremes from hot, dry summers to frosty winters. Impressive oaks of regal importance were pointed out as well as many trees listed on the National Trust's Significant Tree Register. The guided tour was interspersed with many humorous anecdotes and a commentary on past actions and activities in the Gardens.

The four private gardens visited over the weekend were all of quite a different style and served to indicate the range of soil types, landscape designs and quality of gardens which could be found in this goldfields town. The group was impressed with all of the owners enthusiasm and energy in actively conserving and maintaining their gardens. Dedication was awesome in the case of the owner who described to us the early days of restoration of a garden so overgrown with blackberry thickets that almost the only indication of a house beneath the creepers clutches was a lone peacock crowing from the rooftop. Many years of hard work and creativity was evident in the Davey's beautiful garden.

Joy Robertson's fascinating account of the Swiss horticulturist Frederick Hirschi's former tea gardens and nursery site along Barkers Creek, was most intriguing particularly descriptions of the 'mountains of cream' and 'rivers of strawberries' served to Hirschi's patrons. Joy left us curious as to how locals participated in the 'midnight corroborees' Hirschi organised on the nearby hilltop.

Lunch and a tour of the garden at Talerddig with an inspection of Mrs Helen Vellacott's enviable collection of early horticultural books completed Kevin's formal schedule for the weekend.

Most of those attending reconvened shortly afterwards at the invitation of the Castlemaine Art Gallery to attend

the opening of a Heritage Week exhibition documenting the first one hundred years of medicine on the goldfields. The display was of particular relevance as many prominent practitioners, such as the dentist Mr Yandell, were owners of the private homes and gardens we had visited over the weekend while others, such as Ernest Leviny of 'Buda', were benefactors of public institutions such as the hospital.

In an earlier *Australian Garden History Journal* (Vol 1 No 6 1990), Phyl Simons reflected on the *raison d'être* of the AGHS which provides an apt summary of our visit: 'The understanding of gardens in the wider frame of society, place and time, gives heightened appreciation and pleasure in the garden—the embodiment of a civilised society'.

Francine Gilfedder

Royal Botanic Gardens Conservation Study

The Victorian branch commenced their activities for 1991 with an early evening walk and talk in Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens conducted by Richard Aitken and Nigel Lewis. Nigel and Richard are currently carrying out a conservation study of the Gardens and their methods and some of the study's complexities were explained. Old photographs are providing valuable information and they were able to show us some of these at the particular locations where they had been taken so that we could compare the past with the present. They are also receiving excellent cooperation and considerable input from past and present Gardens staff.

The study will identify significant features that should be retained rather than attempt to recreate the Gardens at a particular time in their history. The history of the Gardens is indeed complex and of particular importance in the study is the contrast in styles between two of the early Directors. Ferdinand Mueller planted trees extensively as collections in formal rows between 1857 and 1873. William Guilfoyle succeeded Mueller in 1873 and guided the Gardens for the next 36 years. He made considerable changes to their design and the picturesque style that exists now was largely his creation. Guilfoyle removed and relocated many of the trees planted by his predecessor and retained key specimens in his design. The study identifies many of the vistas that Guilfoyle envisaged and no doubt the re-creation of important vistas will be included in the conservation plan. We learnt of difficulties in recreating original aspects. An example described was the edging of the lake; the current edging is quite severe whereas the original intention was for soft plantings to flow into the water.

The timing of this event was appropriate as issues relating to the Gardens are currently receiving media attention, although Richard prefaced his remarks by saying they would be speaking of the conservation study and not of admission charges or licensed kiosks, the issues presently being debated. AGHS members should, however, endeavour to become aware of all the issues concerning these gardens and in particular should follow the progress of this conservation study. With Government funding difficulties, emotive arguments will ensue. AGHS members should accept some responsibility in contributing

BRANCHES

informed comment on these issues. The talk given by Richard and Nigel was an excellent introduction to this subject and those attending enjoyed a perfect late summer evening in the Gardens.

Helen Page

Petty's Orchard

On Saturday 16 March members enjoyed a pleasant afternoon 'eating apples'. However, these were not just ordinary apples but part of the antique collection being established by the Board of Works at Petty's Orchard, Templestowe.

Petty's Orchard is about 30 hectares and is part of the Yarra Valley Metropolitan Park. It includes a commercial orchard, demonstration area, wildlife lake and a newly planted arboretum of nut and economic trees. The orchard is one of now only two orchards in the Doncaster-Templestowe area which was once covered in fruit trees. The Board's objective in managing the orchard is to preserve the traditional land use, retain a rural character and demonstrate the integration of both agriculture and conservation.

The collection numbers in excess of 200 cultivars and includes apples with exotic names such as Fuji, Gala, Andre Savage (which looks like a brown pear), Lord Lambourne, Twenty Ounce, Winter Banana, Brown's Pippin and the famous Cox's Orange Pippin. Many of the early apple and other fruit cultivars have been lost from cultivation, but fortunately the Board has initiated a program of conserving early apple cultivars which at one time numbered over 500. The collection includes four types of apple—dessert, cooking, dual purpose and cider. The planting also includes the Isaac Newton Tree and Bateman Tree which have historical significance. A display of different pruning styles shows the Vase System, Central Leader, Lincoln Canopy, Tatura Trellis and Ebro Espalier System.

The cultivars have been obtained from the Knoxfield Research Station, Huon Research Station and private collections. Next year the collection will be enlarged by a further 100 cultivars.

John Hawker

WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

Talk by Oline Richards

The AGHS West Australian Branch began its 1991 programme on Wednesday 27 March with an interesting and informative talk on 'The assessment of Western Australian gardens for the Register of the National Estate'. Oline Richards, a foundation member of the AGHS, spoke of her work in the 1979–80 Study of Historic Gardens inaugurated by the Australian Heritage Commission with the aim of gaining knowledge and increasing the profile of gardens as part of the National Estate. The West Australian survey established a framework and looked at a range of garden types and historical periods as well as identifying threats to historic gardens.

Anne Willox

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This calendar of events has two purposes: one is to inform members of activities in their local area. The other is to make ALL members aware of activities organised by the Society.

Branch activities are not restricted to members of that Branch; all members are invited to participate. You may be able to arrange your holidays or a visit to another state to coincide with AGHS activities. A warm welcome and interesting experience awaits you.

May 1991

West Australian Branch

- Sunday 19 May (please note change of date)
Garden Tour.

A selection of Perth gardens listed on the Register of the National Estate.

Victorian Branch

- Wednesday 29 May
Paul Fox will talk about William Guilfoyle and the sub-tropical garden. Guilfoyle was director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens (1873–1909) and his approach to planting was greatly influenced by his trips to the South Pacific, an aspect of his work well known to our speaker. This will be a joint function with the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Tasmanian Branch

- Saturday 25 May Seminar at TAFE College on 'The Dry Garden'. This seminar will cover dry exotic plants, dry native plants and water provision and the conservation of the Dry Garden.
Time: 1.00pm
Cost: \$10 (booking essential)
Contact: David Roberts (003) 98 2745.

June 1991

Southern Highlands/Southern NSW Branch

- Sunday 2 June
'Hands-on' day at Pejar Park, Woodhouselee. Demonstrations of some of the many aspects of garden construction and maintenance, including tree pruning and rejuvenation.

Victorian Branch

- Sunday, 16 June
Canterbury gardens trip has been cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control. Watch this calendar for a future visit to this area.

ACT/Monaro/Riverina Branch

- Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 June
'History of Garden Nurseries' Mid Winter seminar, to be held at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra. Speakers and subjects are: Mr Victor Crittenden, 'Thomas Shepherd'; Prof. R. Clough, 'John Baptiste'; Prof. L. Pryor, 'Yarralumla Nursery'; Mrs Myra Webb, 'Nurseries of the Wagga District'. Visits will be made to local nurseries on Sunday morning.
Cost \$45 members, \$55 non-members, includes afternoon tea and dinner. Send SSAE to GPO Box 1630, Canberra, ACT 2601. Attendance is limited to 90 people, and registrations close on 18 June 1991.

Tasmanian Branch

- Sunday 23 June
Afternoon winter seminar in Hobart on the topic of 'Topiary and Italian Gardens'.
Contact: Mary Darcey (002) 68 6185.

July 1991

Tasmanian Branch

- Wednesday 3 July
Videos and lunch at Esk Farm, Longford.
Time: 11.30am
Cost \$5.
Contact: Jo Johnston (003) 91 1133.

West Australian Branch

- Wednesday 3 July
Annual General Meeting. Guest speaker Iris Leggat will speak on 'The gardens of the J. Paul Getty Museum, California'.

Southern Highlands/Southern NSW Branch

- Sunday 21 July
'Water in the landscape'. Illustrated talk by Robert Woodward, a water sculptor of international repute who designed the cascades at the High Court, Canberra and the El Alamein fountain, King's Cross. Luncheon will be served in the beautiful grounds of Mt Broughton Country Resort, Sutton Forest.

Sydney and Northern NSW Branch

- Saturday 27 July
Visit to Lady Finley's and another North Shore garden.
Time: 10.30am
Cost: \$6 members and \$8 non-members
Contact: Robin Lewarne, 60A Shell Cove Road, Neutral Bay, 2089.

ACT/Monaro/Riverina Branch

- Sunday 28 July
'Paradise lost—almost'. Talk by Dick Ratcliffe at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. Meeting, afternoon tea, guest speaker.
Time: 2.00pm to 4.45pm.
Cost: \$2.00

August 1991

Tasmanian Branch

- 9–11 August
Peter Valder lecture tour.
Venues: Burnie, Launceston and Hobart.
Contact: Fairie Nielsen (004) 33 0077.

ACT/Monaro/Riverina Branch

- Saturday 10 August
Branch Annual General Meeting at the Australian National Botanic Gardens. Meeting, afternoon tea, guest speaker.
Time: 2.00pm to 4.45pm.

Victorian Branch

- Monday 12 August
Branch Annual General Meeting. Guest speaker Peter Valder to talk on 'A view of gardening in the USA: 1607 to present day', followed by supper.
Time: 8.00pm at Ripponlea.



Pejar Park, setting for the forthcoming Southern Highlands/Southern NSW Branch 'Hands-on' day to be held in June 1991 (see Calendar of Events for more details)

Sydney and Northern NSW Branch

- Sunday 18 August

Collecting rare books on plants and gardening. Anne McCormick and Howard Tanner will speak at 10.30am on rare horticultural books at Horden House, 77 Victoria Street, Potts Point.

Cost (including morning tea) \$5 members, \$6 non-members.

Contact: Robin Lewarne, 60A Shell Cove Road, Neutral Bay, 2089.

West Australian Branch

- Sunday 25 August Workshop at Araluen.

September 1991

National Management Committee

- Wednesday 4 September–Sunday 8 September
Bulbs and Blossoms Tour of Western District Gardens of Victoria. An opportunity to visit some of the more interesting private gardens of the area. See advertisement in this issue.

Contact: Margaret Brookes, (03) 650 5043 (Tuesdays, b.h.) or leave a message.

Victorian Branch

- September 1991
Weekend workshop at Ballarat on researching, recording and conserving historic gardens. Speakers, garden visits and practical workshop. Mt Helen Campus, Ballarat University College (note change of venue).

Cost \$115 members, \$145 non-members. Registration forms available in August.

Contact: John Hawker (03) 628 5477 bus or (03) 51 5012 ah.

October 1991

National Management Committee

- Friday 18 to Monday 21 October
Eleventh Annual Conference in Goulburn and district.
Theme: 'Today's New Gardens — Tomorrow's History'.

West Australian Branch

- Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 October
Visit to gardens in the Margaret River area.

November 1991

Victorian Branch

- 2–5 November
Spring long weekend in the Grampians with Roger Elliot.

Victorian Branch

- Thursday 28 November
Christmas get together.